

Report of the Chief Executive

HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE CITY

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1. Introduction

The Council has traditionally honoured notable citizens of Sunderland who have made significant contributions to the well being and community spirit of the City by conferring on them the Honorary Freedom of the City. A report recommending that the Freedom of the City is conferred on Monsieur Joël Batteux OBE, Mayor of St Nazaire and Mr Niall Quinn MBE is contained in Cabinet's report to Council.

Members of the Council have now nominated the following additional candidate for consideration:-

2. Nomination of Mr Trevor Mann CBE

Trevor was appointed as Nissan Motor Company's Executive Vice president and Chairman of the Management Committee for Africa, Middle East, India and Europe, in January 2013.

His appointment is the latest in a succession of key roles at Nissan, based for the most part at the Sunderland plant, as he has risen through the ranks since joining the company in 1985.

Trevor was born in Lancashire and moved to the North East with his family at the age of 15. Having attended college, Trevor began his career in 1980 as a management trainee at BBH Coil & Transformer Limited. Five years later, he joined Nissan Motor Manufacturing Limited (NMUK) as team leader assigned to Trim and Final Assembly in the production department.

Following several promotions, Trevor was appointed in 1994, to help oversee the production of the Micra, which was an historic moment in Sunderland's motor manufacturing history. Not only did securing the Micra contract bring hundreds of jobs to the city, but it was significant in helping to cement Sunderland's growing reputation as a world leading location for automotive engineering and manufacturing.

Ever since negotiations began on the destination for Nissan's UK plant in the early 1980s, the city council has been incredibly proud of its partnership with the company, and of the benefits and opportunities generated as a result, for the local community and economy.

Since his involvement with the Micra, Trevor has been central to this relationship and through subsequent roles including Director of Operations and Production, Deputy Managing Director and Vice President - Manufacturing UK, he has made an enormous contribution to Sunderland's economy.

Spearheading successful campaigns to win contract after contract to build models such as the Qashqai, Juke and Leaf, Trevor led the Sunderland plant from strength to strength, securing and creating highly skilled jobs and rewarding careers for people in Sunderland and the wider region, both at Nissan and throughout its significant supply chain. He was also integral to assuring future investment in the plant in the securing of the Infinity small luxury car, set to roll off the assembly line in 2015.

Trevor made an invaluable contribution to the development of the Sunderland Economic Masterplan and was a thoughtful and respected member of the city's Economic Leadership Board. This all demonstrated his commitment to create opportunity for local people and ensure that Nissan continued to be a key player in the recovery and growth of the local economy. "I like the people here" he was quoted as saying at the time, "they're open, friendly and to the point. There's a bit of a buzz about the area too, with a great business community that really wants to push forward and progress."

Having been made Senior Vice President for Manufacturing, Purchasing and Supply Chain Management with responsibility for all plants in Europe, India and South Africa in 2007, he was appointed Senior Vice President Global Supply Chain and Operating Committee – Africa, Middle East and India, in 2012.

Whilst this meant that everyone who knew and worked with Trevor was extremely sorry to see him finally leave Sunderland, it was a cause for tremendous celebration and pride that someone who had started on a city production line had risen to the very top of his industry.

In 2010, Trevor received an honorary doctorate from the University of Sunderland and a year later from the University of Northumbria, in recognition of his services to the business community and the North East region. In 2012, he was awarded a CBE (Commander of the British Empire) in the New Year's Honours List.

His remarkable journey from team leader to executive vice president of one of the world's leading motor manufacturing companies - and the very highest levels of recognition that he has achieved - make Trevor an outstanding role model and example of what is possible for the young people of Sunderland.

Therefore, at a time when the city council and its partners including the business community, are working hard to implement the Sunderland

Economic Masterplan, ensuring that our children and young people are supported to follow whatever job and career paths they choose, it is considered entirely fitting that the Freedom of the City should be conferred upon Trevor Mann.

Given Sunderland's long tradition of conferring the Freedom of the City on those notable individuals who, through their various achievements, have contributed to the well being and community spirit of the City, it is considered appropriate to recommend the Council to confer the Freedom of the City upon Mr Trevor Mann CBE.

The proposal will formally seal the relationship between Mr Mann and the City of Sunderland in recognition of all he has done for the city, the example of achievement he sets to the city's young people, and his personal contribution to the economic well being of the City and people of Sunderland.

3. Recommendation

That Council;

- (i) Agrees to the conferring, in accordance with the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, of the Honorary Freedom of the City upon Mr Trevor Mann CBE
- (ii) Gives authority for the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to agree all appropriate arrangements for the formal ceremony at an extraordinary meeting of the Council to be held on a date to be fixed.

